

## NATO Training and Capacity Building Activity in Iraq (NTCB-I)

At the Warsaw Summit in July 2016, NATO leaders responded positively to a request from the Iraqi Prime Minister Al-Abadi and agreed to start training and advising Iraqi security forces and institutions in Iraq, alongside training of Iraqi officers and non-commissioned officers out of the country.

In January 2017, NATO established a small Core Team of civilian and military personnel in Baghdad to coordinate training and capacity-building activities in the country in support of Iraqi security forces and institutions.

Key counterparts for NATO are the Ministry of Defence, the Ministry of Interior, the Counter-Terrorism Service, and the Office of the National Security Advisor.

The focus of NATO's efforts in Iraq is on areas agreed upon with the Iraqi authorities - tailored to the needs of the Iraqi security forces and institutions - and where NATO can provide added value.

Our training and capacity building activities do not have a fixed duration. NATO Allies keep their progress under regular review, in close consultation with the Iraqi authorities.

On the ground, NATO coordinates its efforts with a wide range of international actors - including the United Nations, the Global Coalition to Defeat ISIS, the European Union, and individual countries - to ensure that we complement what we do with the efforts conducted by other members of the international community in support of Iraq's long term stability.

Mr. Paul Smith (United Kingdom) is NATO Senior Civilian in Iraq. He represents the NATO Secretary General and the Alliance at large. He liaises with a range of interlocutors, including high-level Iraqi officials, representatives of the Global Coalition to Defeat ISIS, the diplomatic community, and members of international organizations, including the United Nations and the European Union. He is at the helm of the NATO Training and Capacity Building presence in Iraq.



### NTCB-I Activities

Initial training areas identified by the Iraqi authorities, and agreed by NATO, were countering improvised explosive devices (C-IED), explosive ordnance disposal, and de-mining; civil-military planning; and reform of Iraqi security institutions. When reviewing our efforts, Allies agreed to include training in the additional areas of Soviet-era equipment maintenance and military medicine.

NATO delivers training through periodic deployments of mobile training teams and through seminars and workshops conducted by members of the Core Team in Baghdad and subject-matter experts and trainers coming to Iraq specifically for that purpose.

In the area of **countering-improvised explosive devices (C-IED), explosive ordnance disposal (EOD) and demining**, five courses and four senior leader seminars/workshops have been conducted. All courses have been carried out through the "train-the-trainers" concept, so that trained Iraqi personnel can in future provide their own training to new Iraqi trainees.

The train-the-trainer courses have been provided by trainers from different Allied countries at the Iraqi Bomb Disposal School in Besmaya. The first of such courses was implemented through the NATO Science for Peace and Security Program. The focus of these courses has been on enhancing post-conflict IED clearance capacity in urban areas, training on neutralization of deep buried explosive ordnance, and humanitarian demining. In addition to training of personnel, 90 kits of light scale EOD equipment, funded through the Science for Peace and Security Program, and 160 additional individual C-IED kits, provided by the United Kingdom, were delivered to the Iraqi security forces and institutions to support ongoing and future training.



NATO has complemented this training by conducting senior leader seminars and workshops in Baghdad at the ministerial level, in order to consolidate institutionalized training and enhance the skills-set of Iraqi C-IED senior leaders.

In the area of **civil-military cooperation**, four workshops have brought together Iraqi officers and Director Generals of twelve different ministries and agencies, including the Ministries of Defence, Interior, Water, Electricity, Oil, Migration and Displacement, Public Health, Agriculture, Communications, Transportation, and Education, as well as the Prime Minister's National Operations Centre and the Counter-terrorism Service. The high-level focused training, delivered in Baghdad by Allied military officers and civilian staff, focused on strengthening the coordination between Iraqi military and civilian ministries in various phases of security operations and reconstruction efforts.



Furthermore, officials from Iraq's Ministry of Interior participated in a seminar, led by NATO International Staff in Baghdad, which focused on **civil emergency planning**, including the protection of critical infrastructure and implementing Iraq's National Disaster Management Strategy.

In the domain of **reforming Iraqi security institutions**, NATO is supporting the Iraqi security ministries in developing an achievable and sustainable military force structure. To this end, NATO civilian experts on security sector reform and on the promotion of good governance within national security institutions have taken part in joint initiatives, together with other subject matter-experts from the International Community and officers from the Iraqi Ministries of Interior and Defence and the Office of the Deputy National Security Advisor.

In the area of **Soviet-era equipment maintenance**, an Allied Mobile Training Team has provided training to instructors from the Iraqi Engineering School and Maintenance and Engineering Directorate in repairing of post-Soviet era armoured equipment in Taji, Iraq.

In parallel to activities conducted inside Iraq, NATO has provided training on **Military Medicine** training to Iraqi trainees in Germany under the umbrella of NATO's Defence Capacity Building Package in Iraq.

## Reference links

[NATO's relations with Iraq: \[www.nato.int/cps/en/natohq/topics\\\_88247.htm\]\(http://www.nato.int/cps/en/natohq/topics\_88247.htm\)](http://www.nato.int/cps/en/natohq/topics_88247.htm)

[NATO Warsaw Summit Communique': \[www.nato.int/cps/en/natohq/official\\\_texts\\\_133169.htm\]\(http://www.nato.int/cps/en/natohq/official\_texts\_133169.htm\)](http://www.nato.int/cps/en/natohq/official_texts_133169.htm)

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